

Dr. J. N. McCormack

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1907.

Faith helpeth us when we are down, but unbeflows us down when we are up.—Bunyan.

The Mayor and the Council.

Mayor McCarthy is not an anarchist. He is an honest Democrat, and one of the most honest agitators in the land. May his stir-up qualities never fail. The Mayor's doctrine is that Democracy means local self-government.

"The rights of counties, cities and towns are generally the fundamental, the essential, the inalienable rights of the people," said he, "and they cannot be deprived of those rights by any powers that exist in the government of the United States or in the Commonwealth of Virginia, unless it is done by rank injustice and by the exercise of violence. The whole form of our government, from start to finish, indicates that those peculiar, personal liberties we enjoy in our own domicile, in our own town, in our own city, in our own county, cannot be taken away from us except by downright robbery and injustice. And so I say to the city of Richmond that it will be a sad day for her when we give our quiet consent to the idea that any interest, it makes no difference how large it is, can dominate this community to its own hurt, even though it should plead the formal law and use the machinery of the courts. I deny the right of the courts to do injustice; and if they proceed by law, we made the laws, and we, if we wake up, can unmake the laws and reverse the conditions, if the laws impose injustice and outrage upon us."

The Mayor argues that the law is made to protect the citizens of a given community in all their cherished rights, and that when the law fails to protect, the citizens will protect themselves; that if a corporation should undertake to rob the people of Richmond of the great river which God has given them, and the law should allow the robbery to proceed, he would be ready to shoulder arms and fight for his rights and his river. The Times-Dispatch is frank to say that it is in thorough accord with the Mayor in all these views, and that the members of its household would, in such an emergency as he has supposed, enlist under his banner and fight to the water's edge. If this be anarchy, make the most of it.

But the Mayor is no anarchist, we repeat. He has a way of stating an extreme proposition in extreme language, and that's all there is to it.

However, we do not fear, nor does he, that the emergency he supposes will arise, and there is no use consuming space in discussing it. It is more pertinent to discuss the Council and the Mayor's criticism of that body. Here again his language is extreme. In point of fact, we have a very good Council. The body as a whole is composed of intelligent, patriotic citizens, who give a great deal of their time to the public service, without compensation and with little encouragement or help from their constituency. There are fifty-six members—thirty-five in the Council and twenty-one in the Board of Aldermen—and there are few readers of this article who could mention the names of a dozen of them. Most citizens do not know a dozen Councilmen by sight—that is to say, they do not know when they see them that they are members, much less do they take the trouble to call on them and make suggestions, or attend the meetings.

Few of the members have had training in the art of government; most of them are busy with their own affairs, and their work for the city is incidental and done at odd times. If they do well they receive little praise; if they do evil they receive little censure. They are rarely called to account by the people for any of their acts. If they were directors of a business corporation they would have to account to the stockholders for their every error, and especially for any waste of the company's money. But they handle and disburse some two and a half million dollars each year for the city, and are responsible to nobody.

Under these conditions, nothing has saved Richmond from graft and extravagance but the integrity of the Council and the Mayor. The "stockholders" have reason to congratulate themselves that their "President and directors" have done so well. This much of commendation is justly due; and yet the Councilmen themselves will admit that the city's business affairs have not been conducted always in a manner to serve the best interests of the city.

The Council has done well, all things

considered, but our system is cumbersome and unbusinesslike, and tainted more or less with politics. It is not the best that could be devised. There is a better way, and the Mayor has told what it is. The Council should legislate the business affairs of the city should be carried on by a board, or boards, of control. The sooner we adopt this new system, which has been tested and proven in Galveston and elsewhere, the better it will be for both Council and people.

The Value of Health.

Dr. J. N. McCormack, who has been a member of the Board of Health of Kentucky for twenty-five years, made a speech in Baltimore the other night, in which he said many things about health conditions in Maryland which are equally applicable to Richmond. Dr. McCormack spoke especially of preventive measures, taking as his text the old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. He declared that one-third of the sick people in Maryland in 1905 and in every year, and one-third of those taken to the cemeteries, were sick and died of diseases which the medical profession could and would have prevented if they could have had the intelligent co-operation of the people. He said that there were 2,386 deaths from consumption, which means that there are about 8,000 cases of that disease constantly in the State of Maryland. With few words he dismissed the popular impression that consumption is an inherited malady. "No matter what your mother and father died of," said he, "you can no more have consumption, except by getting into your body the germs from a previous case, than you can raise corn or wheat on one of your rich Maryland farms without seed. If all the expectorated matter and the other infectious discharges from every case of this disease now in your State could be collected and destroyed, there need never be another case within your borders, unless it be an imported one."

"The trouble is that the majority of people do not believe such a statement as this. They do not believe that tuberculous germs are floating in the air and are liable to infect even the strongest man or woman in the community; they do not think that if these germs be destroyed there will be no danger of consumption; in short, they do not believe that consumption, like smallpox, is a preventable disease. In the city of Richmond we had 275 deaths last year from consumption, and the doctors say that every one of these cases could have been prevented if we had taken precaution in time. If there had been half as many deaths from smallpox, the people would have been alarmed and aroused, and the Council would have been urged to appropriate fifty thousand dollars, or one hundred thousand dollars if necessary, to stamp out the disease. Yet we go on from year to year taking little precaution against consumption, and some think that five thousand dollars is too great a sum to be expended by the Board of Health in one year to fight tuberculosis. It is a false and foolish policy; it is reckless. Unless medical science is utterly at fault, the city of Richmond is responsible for every case of consumption in the community, and for every death from that disease."

It is gratifying to note, however, that the Council has amended the budget to the extent of giving the Board of Health as much money as is asked for on this account. We hope that the board will not be modest in its request, but will ask for more money before the year is out if more be needed in this righteous work of fighting the white plague.

Dr. McCormack further told the Marylanders that they had 1,422 deaths from the diseases of children caused by using dirty, adulterated or spilt milk. "We often speak of the slaughter of the innocents by Herod," said he, "but he was a novice in the business as compared with our modern cities." There were 256 deaths from diphtheria and scarlet fever, all distinctly preventable. There were 476 deaths from typhoid fever, "which means, according to best estimates," said he, "that you have about six thousand cases of these diseases during the year, and typhoid fever is a typical fifth disease. No one can have it except by getting into his mouth a stomach ache of the discharges of some one who has it."

"In short," said the expert, in concluding this phase of the subject, "during this one year you have 7,842 deaths from preventable diseases, which represents, according to political economy, a distinct loss to you of \$5,318,000."

But this does not take into account the suffering and sorrow, which cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. We urge upon the people of Richmond to consider these facts and figures as such, and not as mythical statements. Human life is very precious; health is money, and as a mere matter of commercialism it is a good business to spend money to procure health and to prevent disease and death. We talk of electric plants and armories, and all sorts of comforts and conveniences, as though they were matters of prime necessity; but the real subject of prime consideration in this community is the health of the people, without which there can be no property or happiness.

The Financial Situation.

Several days ago The Times-Dispatch made reference to the difficulty which railroads were experiencing in borrowing money, and said that unless there was relief in some form the railroads would be compelled to curtail their extensions and improvements and reduce them to the minimum of necessity. A statement now comes from Chicago to the effect that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad has temporarily abandoned extensions and improvements for which

the management expected to spend between \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000.

"It is true," declared President A. J. Earling, when asked regarding retrenchments, "that the St. Paul road is not going to do any work this year that is not necessary. We are doing what every other prudent railroad company is doing, and what must be done, in view of the tendency of the times. We would stop the building of the Pacific coast extension were it not for the fact that the work has proceeded to a point where it could not very well be stopped."

Other railroads will be compelled to pursue the same course for the same reason. They cannot sell their bonds to any advantage, and so they have been borrowing from hand to mouth on short time notes at a high rate of interest. Moreover, whenever a railroad company announces that it is on the market for a little money, down goes the price of its stock, and all stock operators have a case of convulsion fits. Of necessity the railroads will borrow no more money than they are compelled to borrow for urgent needs, and soon or late this must have its effect upon all concerns which manufacture or deal in railroad supplies.

It may be that the Aldrich bill will give some relief when it becomes a law and goes into effect; but that measure is a mere makeshift. It is like putting new patches upon an old garment when a new garment is needed. Congress has busied itself with investigating railroads and making regulations for railroads, all of which is well; but Congress would have done better if it had also met the demands of the financial world and enacted legislation that would give permanent relief. We are rich in resources; we are doing a great business; and yet the whole industrial and commercial world is riddled, pinched and embarrassed for the lack of money with which to carry on its operations and keep prospering going.

It is an anomaly, truly, that a nation should be overwhelmed with its own prosperity—for lack of a currency system. We know of no such parallel in history.

The Bristol Herald-Courier says: "Richmond is becoming more and more selfish. She now wants all the hangings in the State to take place there."

The penitentiary is not Richmond and Richmond is not the penitentiary. The penitentiary is the State prison and is the place where the prisoners of the State are confined. It is the place also where condemned criminals should be executed. But the people of Virginia are very jealous of their rights. The people of each county feel that whatever they have is their own in fee simple, and they will not suffer either condemned criminals or their colleges to be taken away from them without a fight.

The German paper which refers to Harry Lehr as "an ordinary American" is quite correct enough to say old Germany. The only little slips in the statement lie in the facts that Harry is extraordinary and is not an American.

Leslie M. Pashaw, as head of the Carnegie Trust Company, is to get \$25,000 each and every year. Is this an instance of the "alarming prosperity" of which Leslie, in his \$3,000 days, was wont to complain?

Having received an exoneration in regard to his Standard Oil relations, Senator Bailey now clamors for vengeance. Next he will demand a vote of thanks and a gold-headed cane.

It develops that while aboard the Louisiana, Mr. Taft defeated the President in a coal-shoveling contest. This not only makes Taft the world's championship shoveler, but unmistakably suggests where his future duty lies.

The two Japanese cruisers which have left Yokohama for Jamestown had better keep strictly on the alert. The suspicion is abroad that Richmond Hobson is lying in ambush somewhere along their route.

Prince Henry, of the Netherlands, recently invested with the Order of the Bath, is doubtless alive to the fact that he must bring his own soap.

Next some enterprising manufacturer will be getting out a clock named the "Panama," on the ground that it can be absolutely relied upon to strike.

Harriman's contention seems to be that Mr. Fish was an embryo road magnate who meant to be a Harriman when he grew up.

The track is the track of Harriman, and Mr. Fish's mistake was that he would not dodge when Harriman would.

When the presidential boomers get out to hunt for peep's choices, they can get Mr. Shaw by the trust uniform he wears.

The Buffalo News has unearthed a gentleman named Peter Tarnuch of Santolico. Did it Tarnuch should prove an Achan in the camp, eh?

Mr. Oliver, for his part, is left to emerge from the melee with his right hand tightly grasping an ox-cart.

"Women should talk more and longer," says Frederick Ward. Obviously, Fred is a bachelor.

Harry says that Evelyn's statements on the stand are "absolute truth," which of course settles that.

Mac C. Wood has not caught Tom-platt yet, but seems wholly blind to her good fortune.

A second Mrs. Dan Hanna is going to sue for divorce. What on earth is the matter with Dan, anyway?

Rhymes for To-Day

A Plutocrat's Biography.

"This money that he prizes most, And where he finds, he takes it; He never rests a day, He never rests a day, Oh, drunk with strife, he gives his life To taking it away!"

At 84, or after, he Perseveres he must desist, And then he thinks that he will be A Kind Philanthropist, With doubts and anent The Ethics of his Stock, And ere he dies he stoutly tries Somehow to give it back.

To grab it through a long, ill life— Oh, pause this in your hat!— And then—a task to give it back! And that's your plutocrat—later—gifted Sling stents and the way he does it! But oh, what greed he'd save it he'd Just leave it where it was! I. S. II.

MERELY JOKING.

Tongue Twisted.
 "My!" exclaimed Mrs. Bridley, stopping before an assortment of jams marked "25c per jar," in the grocery store. "Isn't that jam just?"

"Reg pardon, ma'am," said the grocer, "I say, isn't that jam dear?"

"Really, ma'am," began the grocer, but had retired in confusion.—Philadelphia Press.

A Little Too Fine.
 "She has a fine mind, hasn't she?" "Remarkable. One of those minds that, when you are with her, you can't decide whether you are talking to a woman or to a man, or to a woman who is not a woman yet."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Up, All Right.
 "Is your husband up yet?" asked the early caller of the sour-faced woman at the door.

"I expect he is," was the reply. "Well, he'll be up in a minute." "So you'll be up in a minute, too?" "Milwaukee Sentinel."

Information Wanted.
 "Pshaw!" exclaimed the young mother, who was writing to her dearest friend, "this child is not coming!"

"What's wrong now?" inquired her husband.

"I want to see how to spell 'outstanding.'"—Philadelphia Press.

Defining It.
 "Dad," inquired Freddy, "what is a 'Bure of speech?'"

"She's downstairs," answered the boy. "Well, then, I mean a woman."—Harpers Weekly.

Utilitarian Tommy.
 Mrs. Jaggons: "Now, Tommy, if Mrs. Wiggons gives you a piece of cake be sure to say, 'Thank you, ma'am.'"

Tommy: "What's the use? She never gives you any more."—Utica Observer.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHS.
 An English railway company removed a train from its schedule, because it was so overcrowded that the cars they should have had to carry could not be loaded.—Washington Post.

Philadelphia has gone back to boss rule. It was too much bother to be good.—Chicago Record-Herald.

It is all very well for distinguished alienists disguised as newspaper men to deliver a lecture on the propriety of "letting it all out," but what's the answer?—Washington Herald.

Mark Twain wears white evening clothes. So, we imagine, do most of us after about 11 o'clock.—New York.

Professor Macintosh, perched upon Vesuvius, declared the prophet that the end of the world is at hand, so you may as well pay up.—New York Herald.

The sum and substance of Mr. Cleveland's remarks is that this country cannot go on to greatness by the Smart Alec route.—Baltimore Sun.

At least one government official has eluded the Ryan payroll. Secretary Shaw is to head a Carnegie trust company.—New York American.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Another New Battleship.
 The Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company will deliver to the government in the next few days another splendid battleship, the Minnesota, which is the largest and most powerful of the United States Navy.

The national gift of Denmark to King Hakan and Queen Alexandra on their wedding anniversary consisted of five pictures and a service of silver plate of 150 pieces.

The world of Queen Margherita of Italy has been making between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a year for some time past by selling her pictures to the press.

Her picture, she holds a sale twice a year.

It Rev. C. K. Nelson, Bishop of Georgia, on Sunday last celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his consecration. He is one of the most learned and popular bishops in the South.

COMMENT OF VIRGINIA EDITORS.
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People Seen

in Public Places

Hon. J. M. Bauserman, of Woodstock, the new commissioner of State Hospitals, who took charge of his position yesterday, is reported to be at Murphy's. Mr. Bauserman is on his way to Williamsburg to make his first official visit to the Eastern State Hospital. While there he will call upon the governor, and will return to his office in the morning, and will return to his office in the morning.

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ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Makes delicious hot biscuit, griddle cakes, rolls and muffins.

An absolutely pure, cream of tartar powder.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

A FINE EXHIBIT FOR DINWIDDIE

Board of Supervisors Appropriate \$1,500 for Creditable Representation at Jamestown.

INVITE MAYOR TO SPEAK

Petersburg Executive Is Honored by the President.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 PETERSBURG, VA., March 1.—The people of Dinwiddie county are preparing to make a first-class exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition, and the board of supervisors has appropriated \$1,500 for the work.

The county's excellent educational facilities and its rich and varied natural resources amply qualify it to make one of the best exhibits of any section of the State.

The February report of Chief of Police R. F. Ragland shows a total of 175 arrests, of which 96 were for violation of city ordinances. Captain Ragland's part in the prompt recapture of Gregory, Hitenback and Pitt, who broke jail here during February and were caught in the act of escaping twenty-four hours after their escape, was a notable piece of detective work.

Wants Mayor to Speak.
 Mayor Jones has received a letter from President George Brown, of the American Anti-Tuberculosis League, extending to him a personal invitation to make an address at the meeting of the league at Atlantic City, June 1st to 4th, and asking him to appoint physicians to represent this city.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters has advised the Mayor that a corps of engineers, in charge of Mr. F. A. Raymond, representing the committee on fire prevention, will soon visit Petersburg to investigate conditions, and report to the committee. The letter explains the reasons and purposes of the board in keeping three parties of engineers at work examining conditions of fire risk and providing for fire prevention in all cities, and asks the Mayor to render any assistance at his command in this city.

Men and Boys Meet.
 A meeting of men and boys of all the Episcopal churches in Petersburg and vicinity, to which members of all denominations are invited, will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church next Sunday evening as a thank offering to God for three hundred years of Christian civilization in America, the 13th of May next being the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Jamestown colony.

FOURTH CONVICTION.
 Danville Man Gets Heavy Jail Sentence and Fine.
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 DANVILLE, VA., March 1.—Lewis Robinson, colored, was convicted in the Mayor's Court today on two charges of selling whiskey without license. The first instance a fine of \$70 and thirty days in imprisonment was imposed. In the second a fine of \$70 and sixty days in jail. Robinson appealed both cases. The appeal in the first case was denied. This makes the fourth conviction of the same was recently convicted of the same cases will be heard before the Corporation Court, Judge A. M. Allen presiding, next week.

Phil Pace, colored, and John Eanes, a young man, were also convicted today of operating a "blind tiger." A fine and jail sentence was imposed in both cases. Eanes and Pace both appealed.

FIREBUG CRAZY.
 Negro Who Started Fires in Suffolk Escaped Lunatic.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 SUFFOLK, VA., March 1.—Accused of setting fire to three houses here in one night, Mitchell Wood, a negro, was arrested last night as a vagrant, and today confessed to the arson in each instance. Wood is said to be a patient in the State Central Hospital, in Petersburg, and is seemingly a monomaniac on the subject of conflagrations. As he is evidently irresponsible, Wood will not be prosecuted, but will be returned to the asylum.

Fire Destroys Residence.
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 FREDERICKSBURG, VA., March 1.—Fire last night destroyed the residence and contents belonging to Mr. Robert Poleguez, in Spotsylvania county, near this city. Loss, about \$1,200; insurance, \$700.

HIGHWAYMAN AFTER HIM
 Armed Men Try to Hold Up Student on Lonely Road.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 DANVILLE, VA., March 1.—Albert T. Lewis, of near Pelham, N. C., about ten miles from Danville, and who is a student at the Danville Commercial College, had an exciting experience late yesterday afternoon with two would-be robbers, who attempted to hold him at the point of a pistol and secure his money. Lewis, riding on a horse, was held up on a lonely road, and while returning home at about dark yesterday was accosted in the road by two men, both armed with pistols. Lewis, who was on his way to his home, was held up on a lonely road, and while returning home at about dark yesterday was accosted in the road by two men, both armed with pistols.

Release Italian.
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
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